

emc-0077

----- Forwarded by Brian Amme/NVSO/NV/BLM/DOI on 01/03/2006 02:01 PM -----

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PM

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To

cc

Subject

Herbicide use

Dear Brian Amme, Project Manager, BLM, Nevada State Office

In re: Vegetation treatments using herbicides programmatic  
EIS

We live near a state park in California that has been  
struggling with  
1 invasive plants for years. We have learned that removal of one  
invasive plant may encourage another: i.e. removal of ice plant left  
disturbed ground open to Ehrharta, a non-native grass that is very  
difficult to remove.

Use of back-hoes and bulldozers in the park has introduced  
2 castor  
beans and star thistle. If the soil is moved to another place in the  
park, the seeds go with it. Careful attention to cleaning of machines  
and control of off-road vehicles does work.

If careful consideration is made to what we have learned about  
the  
spread of invasive plants, we can look forward to their control. Use  
of herbicides may be effective in the short-term, but the side effects  
3 of damage to fish, ground water, and humans is too great to treat  
lightly. Therefore we oppose the use of herbicides and urge that other  
techniques for controlling unwanted plants be used. The BLM should be a  
leader in environmentally friendly techniques.

Thank you, Maryruth and Charles Cox